

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device controlled by a processor, said gaming device comprising:

a plurality of reels, each of said reels including a plurality of symbol positions;

a plurality of symbols at the plurality of symbol positions on said reels, said plurality of symbols including a plurality of first symbols, wherein at least two of the first symbols are different, and at least one replicator symbol, wherein said at least one replicator symbol includes at least two of the same symbols at a single symbol position on the reels wherein each of said same symbols of said at least one replicator symbol functions as an individual symbol for evaluation purposes when determining whether a symbol combination including said replicator symbol is one of a plurality of winning symbol combinations;

at least one predetermined winning symbol combination of said plurality of winning symbol combinations including at least one of said plurality of first symbols, wherein said predetermined winning symbol combination occurs in a predetermined number of symbol positions and is associated with an award ~~first outcome~~ adapted to be provided to a player;

at least one additional winning symbol combination of said plurality of winning symbol combinations including at least one replicator symbol and at least one of said plurality of first symbols, wherein said additional winning symbol combination is also associated with said award ~~first outcome~~ and occurs in fewer symbol positions than said predetermined number of symbol positions; and

said processor programmed to:

(a) activate the reels to generate a plurality of the symbols at said plurality of symbol positions on said reels;

- (b) determine if either of said predetermined winning symbol combination or said additional winning symbol combination is generated on the reels; and
- (c) provide said award~~first outcome~~ to the player if either of said predetermined winning symbol combination or said additional winning symbol combination is generated on the reels.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a payline associated with the reels.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 3, wherein the symbol positions associated with both of the winning symbol combinations are on the payline.

Claim 5 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of paylines associated with the reels.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 5, wherein the winning symbol combinations occur at a plurality of the symbol positions on the paylines.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the winning symbol combinations are determined by at least one of: a random determination, a pre-determination and a determination based on a wager made by the player.

Claim 8 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the symbols include at least one bonus symbol.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 8, which includes at least one bonus ~~outcome~~award provided to the player when a winning symbol combination including said bonus symbol occurs on the reels.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 9, wherein the bonus ~~outcome~~award is modified by ~~includes~~-at least one modifier.

Claim 11 (original): The gaming device of Claim 10, wherein the modifier includes a multiplier.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

a plurality of reels including a plurality of symbol positions;

a plurality of symbols at the plurality of symbol positions on said reels, said plurality of symbols including a plurality of first symbols, wherein at least two of the first symbols are different and at least one replicator symbol, wherein said at least one replicator symbol includes at least two identical symbols at a single symbol position on the reels wherein each of said identical symbols of said at least one replicator symbol functions as an individual symbol for evaluation purposes when determining whether a symbol combination including said replicator symbol is one of a plurality of winning symbol combinations;

at least one predetermined winning symbol combination of said plurality of winning symbol combinations including at least one of said plurality of first symbols, wherein said predetermined winning symbol combination occurs in a predetermined number of symbol positions and is associated with an award adapted to be provided to a player;

at least one additional winning symbol combination of said plurality of winning symbol combinations including at least one replicator symbol and at least one of said plurality of first symbols, wherein said additional winning symbol combination is also associated with said award and occurs in fewer symbol positions than said predetermined number of symbol positions; and

a processor programmed to:

- (a) activate the reels to generate a plurality of the symbols at said plurality of symbol positions on said reels and
- (b) provide said award to the player if:
 - (i) said predetermined winning symbol combination is generated on the reels or
 - (ii) said additional winning symbol combination is generated on the reels.

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (original): The gaming device of Claim 12, which includes a payline associated with the reels.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein the symbol positions associated with both of the winning symbol combinations are on the payline.

Claim 16 (original): The gaming device of Claim 12, which includes a plurality of paylines associated with the reels.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein the winning symbol combinations occur at a plurality of the symbol positions on the paylines.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 12, wherein the winning symbol combinations are determined by at least one of: a random determination, a pre-determination and a determination based on a wager made by the player.

Claim 19 (original): The gaming device of Claim 12, wherein the symbols include at least one bonus symbol.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 19, which includes at least one bonus award~~outcome~~ provided to the player when a designated symbol combination including said bonus symbol occurs on the reels.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 20, wherein the bonus award is modified by~~outcome includes~~ at least one modifier.

Claim 22 (original): The gaming device of Claim 21, wherein the modifier includes a multiplier.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method of operating a gaming device having a game operable upon a wager, the method comprising:

- (a) activating a plurality of reels including a plurality of symbol positions to generate a plurality of symbols at said plurality of symbol positions on said reels, wherein said plurality of symbols includes a plurality of first symbols, wherein at least two of the first symbols are different and at least one replicator symbol, wherein the replicator symbol includes at least two of the same symbols at a single symbol position on the reels and wherein each of said same symbols of said at least one replicator symbol functions as an individual symbol for evaluation purposes when determining whether a symbol combination including said replicator symbol is one of a plurality of winning symbol combinations and
- (b) providing an award ~~first outcome~~ to a player if:
 - (i) a predetermined winning symbol combination of said plurality of winning symbol combinations is generated on the reels, wherein said predetermined winning symbol combination includes at least one of said plurality of first symbols and occurs in a predetermined number of symbol positions or
 - (ii) an additional winning symbol combination of said plurality of winning symbol combinations is generated on the reels, wherein said additional winning symbol combination includes at least one replicator symbol and at least one of said plurality of first symbols and occurs in fewer symbol positions than said predetermined number of symbol positions.

Claim 24 (canceled).

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method of Claim 23, wherein the step of providing the award~~first outcome~~ to the player includes providing the award~~first outcome~~ when either of the predetermined winning symbol combinations occur on a payline associated with the reels.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The method of Claim 23, wherein the step of providing the award~~first outcome~~ to the player includes providing the award~~first outcome~~ when either winning symbol combination occurs in at least one symbol position on a plurality of paylines associated with the reels.

Claim 27 (original): The method of Claim 23, which includes the step of determining the winning symbol combinations by performing at least one of: a random determination, a pre-determination and a determination based on a wager made by the player.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The method of Claim 23, which includes the step of providing at least one bonus award~~outcome~~ to the player when a winning symbol combination including at least one bonus symbol occurs on the reels.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The method of Claim 28, wherein the bonus award is modified by~~outcome includes~~ at least one modifier.

Claim 30 (original): The method of Claim 29, wherein the modifier includes a multiplier.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The method of Claim 23, wherein the steps (a) ~~to (c)~~ are provided to the player through a data network.

Claim 32 (original): The method of Claim 31, wherein the data network is an internet.